



NEWS RELEASE

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Project Cool Aid Helps Needy Homeowners Chill Out with Air Conditioning Relief

PHOENIX – As the weather begins to cool down, some Arizonian's can't help but wonder how long it will be before it begins to get warm again. One state agency and an air conditioning contractor association want to help Valley residents become prepared for the upcoming year. For the fifth year in a row, Project Cool Aid, sponsored by the Arizona Registrar of Contractors (ROC) and the Air Conditioning Contractors of America-Arizona (ACCA-AZ), will provide selected Maricopa County homeowners with free home cooling system repair or replacement.

"In a part of the country where the temperature has been known to rise to life-threatening levels, the ROC and the ACCA are assisting persons whose health is affected by the summer heat," says ROC Director Fidelis Garcia. "Through Project Cool Aid, the ROC will work with its partners to provide a safer and healthier home environment for those children and adults that need it the most."

According to the Arizona Department of Health Services, from 1996 to 2006, 433 citizens from Arizona died from heat exposure due to excessive temperatures. In Maricopa County, 253 of those deaths occurred during the Valley's summer heat. Most affected by the extreme summer temperatures are seniors, children and individuals with certain medical conditions.

Applicants must submit a statement of need to the ROC that includes the following:

- Homeowner's name, address and telephone number
- Description of cooling system needs
- Number and description of family members
- Special circumstances which may include health, disability issues and extreme financial concerns

The deadline was recently extended as more resources and contractors have become available. Statements must be mailed to the Arizona Registrar of Contractors, Attention: Project Cool Aid, 3838 N. Central Ave., Ste. 400, Phoenix, AZ 85012-1946 or e-mailed to projectcoolaid@azroc.gov. Maricopa County homeowners have through March 1st, 2008 to apply for Project Cool Aid. This program is limited to Maricopa County residents only.

"Many people in the Valley cannot afford to get their air conditioning units repaired or replaced so they suffer through the heat," says Antoine Coffey, president of ACCA-AZ. "Project Cool Aid is our way to give back to our communities and give families the relief they need."

In the first four years of the program, Project Cool Aid has helped more than 150 families. Labor, supplies and equipment are donated for this program and have exceeded \$500,000 in value since the program's inception.

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